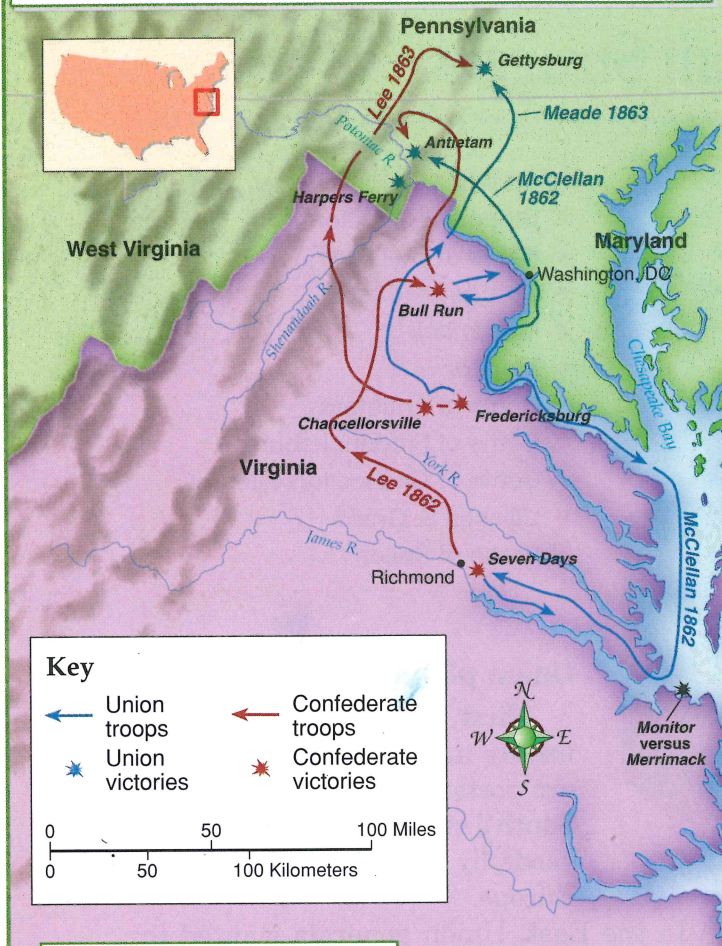


The Civil War in the East, 1861–1863



Geography Skills

Early in the war, Union armies were unsuccessful in their attempt to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital.

- 1. Location** On the map, locate: (a) Washington, DC, (b) Richmond, (c) Bull Run, (d) Chancellorsville, (e) Potomac River.
- 2. Movement** Describe the route that General McClellan took when he tried to capture Richmond in 1862.
- 3. Critical Thinking** Do you think the Confederacy made a wise decision in locating its capital at Richmond? Explain.

independent nation and continue to buy southern cotton for their factories.

Forward to Richmond!

“Forward to Richmond! Forward to Richmond!” Every day for more than a month, the influential *New York Tribune* blazed this “Nation’s War Cry” across its front page. Re-

sponding to popular pressure for a quick victory, President Lincoln ordered the attack.

Battle of Bull Run

In July 1861, Union troops set out from Washington, D.C., for Richmond, about 100 miles (160 km) away. They met with Confederate soldiers soon after they left. The battle that followed took place near a small stream called Bull Run, in Virginia.

July 21, 1861, was a lovely summer day. Hundreds of Washingtonians rode out to watch their army crush the Confederates. Many carried picnic baskets. In a holiday mood, they spread out on a grassy hilltop overlooking Bull Run and awaited the battle.

The spectators, however, were shocked. Southern troops did not turn and run as expected. Inspired by the example of General Thomas Jackson, they held their ground. A Confederate officer remarked that Jackson stood his ground “like a stone wall.” From that day on, the general was known as “Stonewall” Jackson.

In the end, it was Union troops who panicked and ran. A congressman who witnessed the retreat reported,

“Off they went . . . across fields, toward the woods, anywhere, everywhere, to escape. . . . To enable them better to run, they threw away their blankets, knapsacks, canteens, and finally muskets, cartridge-boxes, and everything else.”

The Confederates did not pursue the fleeing Union army. Had they done so, they might even have captured Washington, D.C. Instead, they remained behind to gather the gear thrown away by the Union troops.

The **Battle of Bull Run** showed both the Union and the Confederacy that their soldiers needed training. It also showed that the war would be long and bloody.

Caution, delay, and retreat

After the shocking disaster at Bull Run, President Lincoln appointed General **George McClellan** as commander of the Union army of the East, known as the Army of the Potomac. McClellan, a superb